IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor Shinichi OGASAWARA, et al.

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Serial Number 10/573,533

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Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SIR:

In order to comply with discretionary regulations 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of non-US documents (if any) listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

Attached is a Supplementary Partial European Search dated July 11, 2007, for corresponding European Application Number EP 04 77 3308. This document cites four documents. One of the documents, namely US 4,969,647, was submitted in an IDS filed on September 18, 2007. Two of the documents, namely JP 9-253332 and JP 2001-104645 were submitted in an IDS filed on March 24, 2006.

The present Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR \$1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will 84270039 1 1

determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR $\S\S1.104$ (a) and 1.106 (b), and in the course

of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not

initialed.

As this statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due.

However, any fee determined to be due with this statement may be charged to Deposit Account

50-1290.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

/ Brian E. Hennessey / Brian E. Hennessey

Reg. No. 51,271

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2